

REMARKS OF THE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
TO THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE SOCIAL STUDIES  
AND THE  
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF LANGUAGE TEACHERS CONVENTION  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
28 OCTOBER 1983

## 1. Introduction

°In front of the CIA headquarters building stands a statue of a young Connecticut man, Nathan Hale. Like you, he was a teacher. Like me, he was a spy. In both capacities, he served his state and his country.

°He undertook a dangerous mission, one well known to you. He left from my hometown of Norwalk and landed on Long Island, not far from the home of my present boss, Bill Casey. He is honored not because his mission succeeded, but because he is a role model for us all, but especially for our young people. He was a real patriot, and he proved it with his life.

## 2. Soviet Society

°We know from recent events that the Government of the USSR can be quite ruthless. We know that the Soviets are the imperialists of our time. We know that they have powerful weapons with which to threaten the free world. We know that they steal our technology. What we forget is that the first victims of the Soviet system are the people who live there. What kind of a life do they lead?

°The peoples of the USSR lack the fundamental freedoms which we hold dear. Apart from that, they also suffer the inefficiencies of the Soviet system. The quality of life is not high on what is supposed to be the workers' paradise. The huge military machine has first priority on resources.

°Agriculture is a drag on the economy. A farmer in the US produces enough food for himself and 64 others. By contrast, a farmer in the Soviet Union produces enough food for himself and 7 others.

°Daily life is an ordeal. Shopping for the most basic items is a rat race, with constant shortages and long lines. When a Moscow resident sees a queue, he joins it without even knowing what's at the other end. It doesn't matter, since everything is in short supply.

°In 1981, a Soviet correspondent took off from Moscow for Krasnodar on the Black Sea. He deliberately left behind all the usual personal items (soap, razor, shaving cream, toothbrush, and so forth) to investigate reports that such items were unavailable in Krasnodar stores. He systematically visited every store in Krasnodar in an unsuccessful quest to buy the articles. He managed to get only the last package of

razor blades in one store and a child's toothbrush at another. The toothbrush broke the following day.

°Shortages and shoddiness go hand in hand in the USSR, whether one is speaking of food, housing, or consumer goods.

°In Moscow, consumers have to "reserve" toilet tissue in stores by filling out postcard order forms. However, sometimes the supply of postcards runs out.

°The burden is not shared equally in "the classless society." High party officials are entitled to shop at special stores closed to the general public, where scarce goods are sold at low prices. With the right contacts, the waiting time for an apartment in Moscow can be reduced from 10 years to 2 years.

°There is no free press in the Soviet Union. The two nationwide dailies are Izvestia and Pravda. One means "the news," the other means "the truth." There's an old saying in Russia that there's no truth in the news and no news in the truth.

°There is a great emphasis in Soviet schools on mathematics, science, and engineering. About 1/3 of total

instruction time in secondary schools is devoted to mathematics and science. This is a plus for the technologically-oriented Soviet society. There are serious flaws, however, in Soviet education, including too much rote learning and, at the university level, narrow specialization early on.

°There is some youth alienation. Communist Party officials have expressed concern over the loss of ideological fervor on the part of Soviet youth. There is a good deal of materialism and there is concern about drug abuse and alcoholism among them.

°Alcoholism is considered by many to be the most serious social problem in the Soviet Union, and it is on the rise. According to one Soviet authority, 37% of the male work force is chronically drunk, compared with 11% in 1925. The number of drinkers under age 18 has also risen sharply. In 1925, 16% of those under age 18 drank. Today it exceeds 90%. Alcoholism among women is growing as well; 10% of alcoholics are women.

°The social consequences of drinking are evident in Soviet publications. More than half of all crimes in the USSR are committed by intoxicated people. In the case of teenagers, 70 to 80% of crimes committed are linked to drinking.

°In 1976, deaths from acute alcohol poisoning were recorded as 15.9 per 100,000 population. In the same year, deaths in the US from acute alcohol poisoning were recorded at 0.18 per 100,000 population. These grim statistics reflect the inadequacy of medical attention to the problem. They also reflect the lousy booze available to the public.

°Although the Soviet health care system is extensive and free of charge, there is a relatively low standard of care. Drugs are difficult to find, hospitals are overcrowded and dirty, and a patient's family must often bring food from home to supplement the hospital diet. In contrast, there is a closed system of hospitals and clinics with superior facilities for top party and government officials.

°According to Soviet data, the USSR appears to be the only nation in the world with a lower life expectancy now than 20 years ago. The average Soviet male life expectancy was 66 years in 1965. Today it is 62.

°The USSR is a multinational empire. Roughly half the population is non-Russian. Nationality discontent is a latent vulnerability. Language policy is a sensitive issue in the USSR. Linguistic Russification is resented and resisted. Only

13% of the non-Russian population (and that's half the people in the USSR) use Russian as a first language.

°A demographic explosion is occurring in the Central Asian part of the USSR. Birth rates in the Muslim areas are 2 1/2 times those in the Slavic areas. By the end of the century, 40% of all Soviet children under age 10 will come from Muslim areas.

°Moscow views religion as a competitor for the loyalty of the Soviet people. It deals directly with this threat in Muslim areas by such things as limiting the number of mosques and admissions to the two theological seminaries. Nonetheless, Islam maintains a strong grip on the Central Asian peoples.

°The revolution in Iran and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan have made Islamic fundamentalism a current issue for the leadership, and these events play on the psychological fears of the Moscow-based leadership.

°The wide array of Soviet social and economic ills is well-documented, but observers differ on the implications for the Soviet regime. Some consider that the regime's coercive powers are so massive that changes in the system are unlikely.

°Another school of thought sees the Government's legitimacy seriously eroding. According to this view, the younger generation will increasingly compare the quality of life in the USSR with that of the West -- a comparison in which the USSR comes up short. Such perceptions may ultimately lead to a fundamental change in the political system.

°Whatever the future holds, the stark reality is that daily life in the Soviet Union is an ordeal. The peoples of the Soviet Union are the prisoners of an inefficient and ossified system imposed upon them by the Bolshevik minority in 1917.

### 3. Intelligence and the Social Sciences

°The above report on Soviet society is a good example of how we use the social sciences in intelligence. In our Office of Global Issues, we use an integrated approach that utilizes the talents of psychologists, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, cultural geographers, economists, political scientists, and historians. Let's look at some of the other global problems they address.

°Political instability and revolution. Terrorism. Urbanization. Population pressures. Ethnic and linguistic



divisions. Societal change. International migration, legal and illegal. Food. Desertification. Long-range climatic changes. Pollution. Narcotics -- this one I want to develop since this is a big, national problem which has not left our schools untouched.

#### 4. Narcotics

°As many as 41 million people in the United States each year spend some \$80 billion on illegal drugs: heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and hashish.

°As school teachers, you are undoubtedly concerned about drug abuse by students. The Central Intelligence Agency plays an important role in the national effort to interdict the flow of narcotics into this country.

°We provide the crop estimates of the production of illicit drugs around the world as well as the analysis of how such drugs are smuggled from country to country.

°The results of such research are sobering. Drugs entering US markets are produced primarily in Latin America, Southwest Asia, and Southeast Asia.

°Latin America supplies all of the cocaine, over 90% of the marijuana, and about one-third of the heroin sold on US streets.

°The so-called Golden Crescent of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran is the world's leading opium-producing region and supplies over 50% of the heroin used here.

°The Golden Triangle of Burma, Thailand, and Laos supplies about 10% of US heroin.

°Although marijuana use has declined somewhat among high school youths, there has been a slow, steady increase in the use of cocaine. Colombia is the major source for cocaine imported into the US. New marketing sources have also been established in Brazil's Amazon valley. More and more cocaine is being smuggled into the US in commercial aircraft.

°Drug traffickers need overseas havens to launder and stash their huge profits from smuggling. Countries with strict bank secrecy laws are favored as are areas which have easy, loose requirements for incorporation. Loose incorporation laws enable the drug smuggler to form a front corporation to handle money arrangements.

°Although Switzerland is known for its bank secrecy laws, the Swiss have signed a mutual assistance treaty with the US which allows US investigative agencies access to certain bank records if there is probable cause. Presently drug traffickers use banks in Panama, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Hong Kong. The proximity of Panama, the Caymans, and the Bahamas to the US enables the traffickers to smuggle large amounts of cash via short flights on commercial or chartered aircraft.

°Despite attempts by some countries to reactivate crops and despite more widespread attention given to stopping international trafficking, the lure of large profits ensures a steady flow. In many drug-producing countries money earned by growers and traffickers far exceeds returns from alternative crops. For example: the average income for a Colombia farmer is some \$60 to \$70 per month; the same farmer growing marijuana could probably earn more than \$1,300 monthly.

##### 5. Civil Technology

°For years, the US dominated foreign markets. No longer. Japan is equally competitive with us, if not more so in electronics. Japan is also trying to make its mark in the

aircraft industry, making all kinds of offers to Boeing for Boeing to build plants in Japan.

°In Europe we have the same problem. In our country, we don't subsidize the development of civil, non-military products. France has put \$1.3 billion dollars into developing the airbus, another \$1.2 billion to market it, and is subsidizing the production of that plane to the tune of \$400 million. It's difficult for a private US company to compete with a foreign company subsidized by its government. Unless we find a way to deal with this, we're going to be in deep trouble. We don't need another Detroit in Seattle or East Hartford. (Pratt and Whitney Division of United Technologies, located in East Hartford, manufactures aircraft engines.)

#### 6. Intelligence and the Sociology of Religion

°To understand a people, one must study the spiritual roots of its behavior -- its religion and how its history has been shaped by it. This is especially so for Muslim nations.

°In the West, we tend to separate religion from politics, the private from the public realm. Not so in Islam. There is not even a suitable word in Arabic, Persian, or other Islamic languages for "temporal" or "secular." Muslims

themselves do not make the distinction. Making contracts, paring nails, and prayer are all religious acts.

°Five years ago we witnessed enormous upheavals in Iran. While we couldn't predict the outcome of that year-long revolution, we knew the players and the issues. The religion of Islam and the institution of the Persian monarchy have been the two predominant forces in Iran for 13 centuries.

°The two have sometimes worked closely together but, in the last two centuries, have been at swords' points. The contest between the Shah and Khomeini was only the apex of a conflict that has waxed and waned for 200 years. Until recently, neither has been able to completely suppress the other.

°Since the Iranian drama unfolded, we have paid increasing attention to the analysis of broad societal forces which can have a major impact on a nation's politics. The resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism, in Iran and elsewhere, is the most conspicuous example of such a societal force.

7. How Can You Help?

°You can help your country by encouraging the teaching of foreign languages. Our nation's foreign language capability has been rapidly deteriorating. One of the most obvious results of this deterioration is the adverse impact it is having on your intelligence agencies. Affording our youth the opportunity to learn foreign languages is essential, and they should begin as early in their schooling as possible.

°Our linguistic needs are not limited to Russian and Chinese. Third World nations are of increasing concern to us. We must keep abreast of developments in all areas. We must be able to translate and assimilate a vast amount of information as fast as possible -- translations not only of military and political material but also of economic and technical substance.

°Language capability (especially speaking ability) is critical in recruiting foreign nationals to provide us with information and in developing strong ties with our counterparts in other intelligence services abroad. The collection of human intelligence is something of an art. The success of our officers overseas depends to a very large extent on intangible psychological and human factors, on feelings of trust and

confidence, and on personal rapport. Speaking the other person's language plays a critical role in this chemistry.

°Many of our people with a foreign language capability have retired after 30 years or so of service. Replacement of these people has been made difficult by the fact that many colleges no longer have foreign language requirements as part of their mandatory curriculum.

°We are especially vulnerable when it comes to the more exotic languages such as Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, and so forth. We have seen a steady decline since 1975 in almost all languages, including the more common Romance languages. We need strong skills in most world languages.

°In CIA, we have had a language school since 1951. It was set up by Leon Dostert, who developed the Army's program in World War II and subsequently established Georgetown University's Institute of Languages and Linguistics. But we cannot afford the burden in terms of time, expense, security, and manpower to continually devote the bulk of a person's training period to the development of a language skill.

°In the last few years, we have implemented a Language Incentive Program whereby people are rewarded for achieving a

particular level of proficiency in a language and rewarded for the maintenance of that skill.

°The Director and I strongly support the recommendations in the Report of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies issued in November 1979. We also encourage adequate funding for such programs as the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language Studies Program and the Translations Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We have conveyed this support to Congress in the form of testimony before the House Education and Labor Committee.

°We are losing the large talent bank of second-generation Americans where another language was spoken at home. Of the major nations of the world, we are the most monolingual. Decisive action should be taken at all levels -- local, state, and federal -- to foster foreign language training in our country.

°I am mindful that this group includes those attending the Annual Convention of the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers. I turn to you to ask for your assistance and to remind you that every time you train a student in a foreign



language, you are making a contribution to the national security.

°There are other ways in which you can help us. As I looked over the conference schedule, I noted so many sessions and clinics discussing topics pertinent to our work: area studies, geography, map skills, and history. And then I was struck by four different sections entitled respectively: Hamburger and Sushi; Roman Cookery and Foods; Foods, Culture, and the Curriculum; and, finally, Hamburgers, French Fries, and a Coke: Teaching Social Studies and Foreign Languages thru Common Foods. What a marvelous idea--- eating your way through to cross-cultural understanding!

°Quite seriously, the products of any society, whether they are machines, produce, or ideas, are in harmony with each other. Manifestations of the human spirit which spring from the same source cannot be inconsistent with one another. All this by way of saying more power to you who are fostering understanding of peoples and cultures different from our own, however one breaks through to that understanding. This is also the task of intelligence.

## 8. Intelligence in an Open Society

°There are dilemmas that intelligence agencies face in carrying out their duties in an open society. Secrecy is essential to any intelligence organization. At the same time, accountability is essential in a democratic society. Appointed officials are accountable to elected ones and elected officials are accountable periodically to the electorate.

°It is often said that intelligence is not accountable. Nothing could be further from the truth. It always has had to answer fully to the President -- and in varying degrees to Congress, the National Security Council, the Office of Management and Budget, the Intelligence Oversight Board, and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. In the past few years, we have witnessed an expanded intelligence oversight role for the Attorney General and the Courts.

°Under our political system, the Director and I carry out our responsibilities under the close scrutiny of the press -- certainly a unique position among the intelligence chiefs of the world. But while intelligence should not be divorced from public opinion, neither should it be overly concerned with the daily shifts, the ups and downs, of public

criticism or praise. This is more properly the concern of the elected representatives.

°Elected officials, whether in the White House or in Congress, must stay closely attuned to the public's wishes. We in intelligence must be responsive to the President and Congress. We receive the public's direction through them. That is why we welcome Congressional and Presidential oversight. That our actions are reviewed and approved by the public's representatives gives them a legitimacy they would not otherwise have in our open society.

°Secrecy is essential to any intelligence organization. Ironically, secrecy is accepted without protest in many areas of our society. Physicians, lawyers, clergymen, grand juries, journalists, income tax returns, crop futures -- all have confidential aspects protected by law. Why should national security information be entitled to any less protection?

## 9. Conclusion

°Our country faces some difficult challenges ahead. I am confident that the American people will rise to the occasion. We always have.

°In 1780 in Hartford, there was an eclipse in mid-afternoon. In that religious age, people fell on their knees and begged a final blessing before the end came. The Connecticut House of Representatives was in session and many of the members clamored for immediate adjournment. The Speaker of the House, one Colonel Davenport, came to his feet and he silenced the din with these words: "The day of judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I move, therefore, that candles be brought to enlighten this hall of democracy."

°Let each of us in this challenging time in our history bring and light candles to help illuminate our country's way.